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THE FINAL CONFRONTATION

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ON A FREE FLOATING SATELLITE, MANY LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH...

AND SO, DEAR NEBULA, EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE USURPED THAT WHICH IS RIGHTFULLY MINE, IT SHALL DO YOU LITTLE GOOD!

RETURN THE INFINITY GAUNTLET IMMEDIATELY, AND ALL WILL BE FORGIVEN!

NEBULA SAID "TWO LITTLE FRIENDS."

BUT THREE OF US ACCOMPANY THANOS!

I MIGHT EVEN APPOINT YOU MY CHIEF CONSORT, IF YOU BEHAVE YOURSELF-

A VERY TEMPTING OFFER, GRANDFATHER, BUT--

I TAKE THIS TO MEAN THAT MY KIND OFFER HAS BEEN REJECTED?

AS EVER, THANOS, YOUR KEEN INTELLECT AMAZES ME.

RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.

CONSORT, INDEED...

HE STANDS OUTSIDE...

...THE REALMS OF CHAOS AND ORDER.

NEBULA IS UNAWARE OF WARLOCK'S PRESENCE.

I SEE NO GOOD REASON YOU MIGHT HAVE FOR SMILING, OLD MAN.

WHICH CLEARLY ILLUSTRATES THE PATHETIC LIMITS OF YOUR OWN INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY.

YOU HAVEN'T THE VISION NECESSARY TO PROPERLY EXPLOIT THE INFINITY GEMS!

BUT YOU HAVE, I SUPPOSE...?

JUST LOOK AT WHAT I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR.

GREAT DEEDS SUCH AS KILLING OFF HALF OF THE UNIVERSE?!

THINNING THE HERD.

SHEER INSANITY.

A GRANDEUR BEYOND YOUR COMPREHENSION!

SOPHISTRY!

YOUR REIGN AS A SUPREME BEING IS A BLASPHEMY WHICH CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO STAND!

AND BY THE POWER OF THE INFINITY GEMS I SHALL SEE THAT IT DOES NOT!

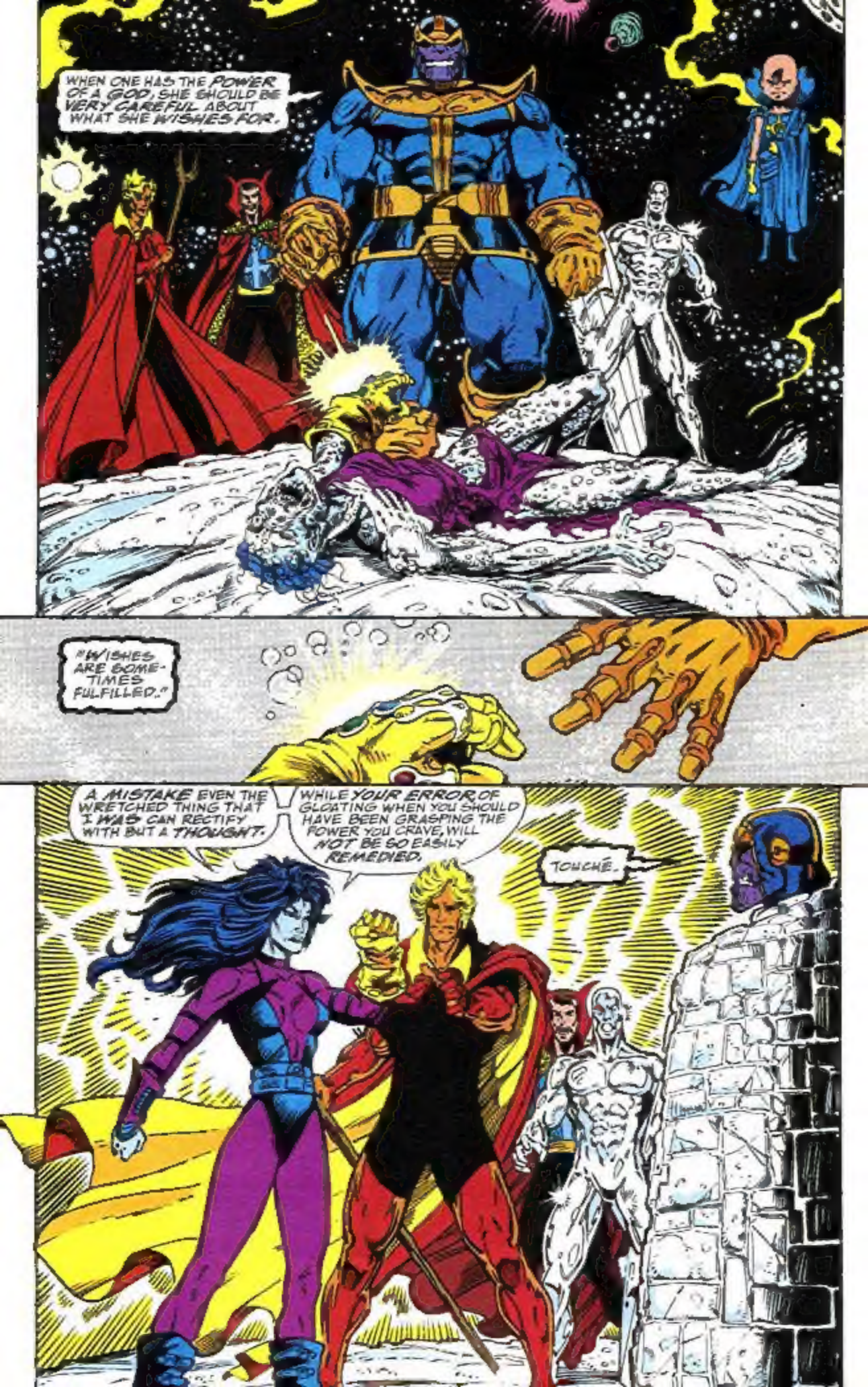
WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT I RETAIN POSSESSION OF THE INFINITY GAUNTLET, LET EVERYTHING BE AS IT WAS--

-TWENTY FOUR HOURS AGO!

NO!

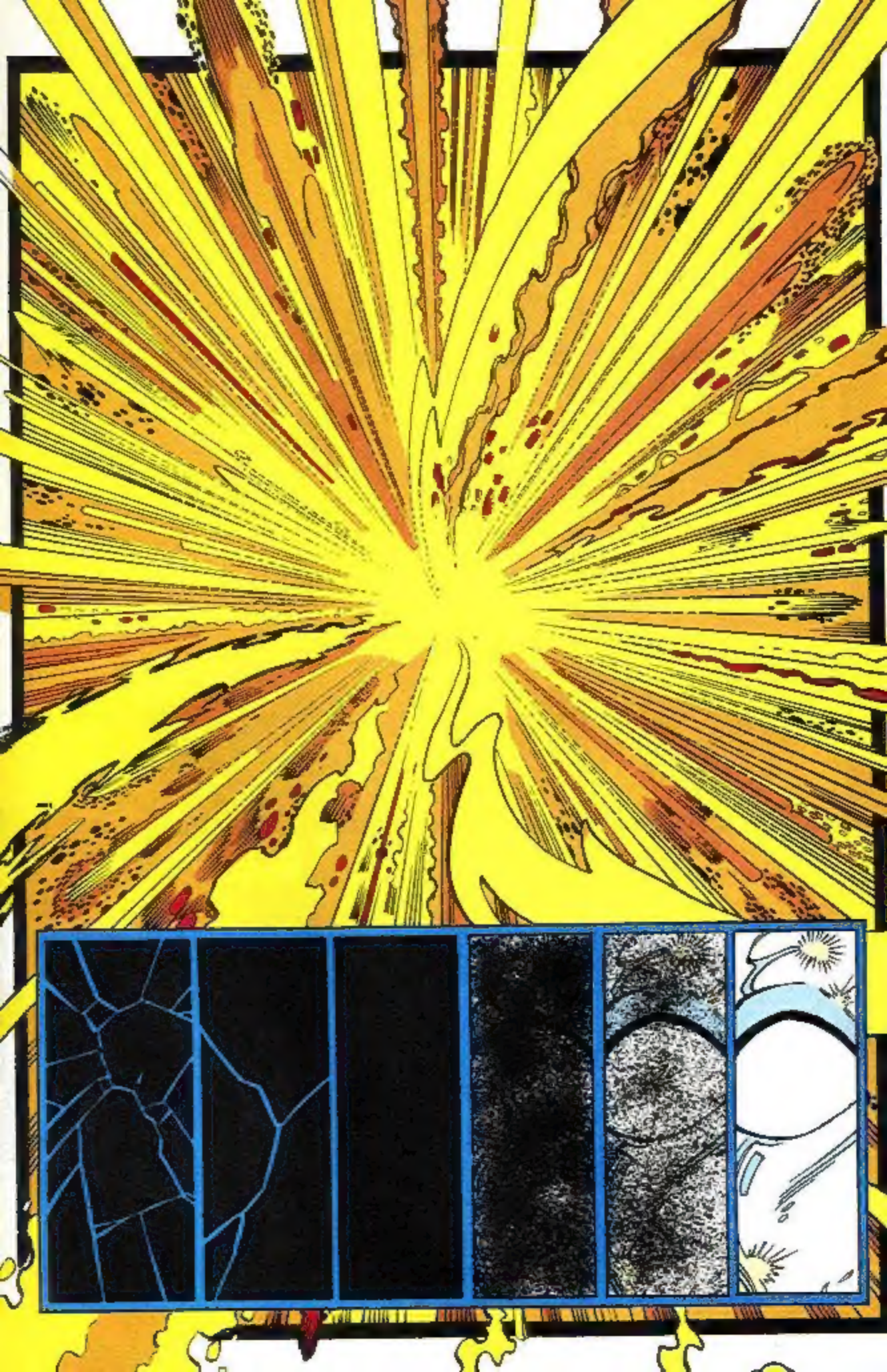
"THE WISH BECOMES REALITY.
"HALF THE UNIVERSE IS RESURRECTED...
"...MERE MOMENTS AFTER ITS UNEXPECTED DEATH.
"MOST WILL REMEMBER NOTHING OF WHAT HAS OCCURRED.
"SOME WILL HAVE A NAGGING FEELING THAT SOMETHING IS OR WAS AMISS.
"WHILE OTHERS WILL REMEMBER, BUT THAT MEMORY WILL PROVE MADDENING.
"FOR IT WILL PUNCTUATE JUST HOW TRULY HELPLESS THEY ARE.
BARING
"POWERLESS AGAINST A FORCE BEYOND THEIR COMPREHENSION.
"A WILL CAPABLE OF EITHER CAUSING GALACTIC GENOCIDE...

"...OR RETURNING A FROZEN PLANET TO ITS PROPER ORBIT.
"SO LET THERE BE CELEBRATION THROUGHOUT THE HEAVENS.
"FOR A FALSE GOD HAS FALLEN.
"THE REIGNS OF POWER ONCE AGAIN SHIFT HANDS,
"THE GAME CONTINUES.
"BEHOLD A NEW DAY DAWNING.
"AND A MERE WISH GAVE BIRTH TO THE REALITY."
FOR DEAR NEBULA WILLED THAT EVERYTHING BE AS IT WAS.


WHEN ONE HAS THE POWER OF A GOD, SHE SHOULD BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT SHE WISHES FOR.
"WISHES ARE SOMETIMES FULFILLED."
A MISTAKE EVEN THE WRETCHED THING THAT I WAS CAN RECTIFY WITH BUT A THOUGHT.
WHILE YOUR ERROR OF GLOATING WHEN YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN GRASPING THE POWER YOU CRAVE, WILL NOT BE SO EASILY REMEDIED.
TOUCHÉ.

WHAT?
HOW?
HOW IS IT THAT YOU TWO STILL REMAIN?
OF COURSE!

THE MAGICIAN.
WELL, WE'LL BROOK NO FURTHER MISCHIEF FROM YOU.
ANOTHER ERROR IN JUDGMENT, NEBULA.
BUT AGAIN ONE I PROMPTLY RIGHTED.
YOU HAVE BEEN TRULY FORTUNATE SO FAR.
BUT AS YOU ARE ABOUT TO LEARN, SOME MISTAKES ARE WORSE THAN OTHERS.
WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT, THEY RETURN TO HAUNT YOU.
THE COSMIC BEINGS!



WE'RE BACK IN SOUL WORLD!

WHY??

BECAUSE MY POWER IS GREATER HERE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE

AND BECAUSE IT'S ALL PART OF THE PLAN

THE THREAT TO THE UNIVERSE COULD NOT BE NEUTRALIZED UNTIL THE GAUNTLET WAS IN OTHER HANDS.

BECAUSE THANOS WOULD HAVE SENSED IT AND STOPPED YOU?

YES. NEBULA'S INEXPERIENCE AND CURRENT CONFUSION IS OUR ONLY EDGE.

FROM THE BEGINNING YOU KNEW THANOS WOULD LOSE THE GAUNTLET?

BECAUSE I KNOW THANOS AND THE WAY HIS MIND WORKS.

SO WHAT NOW?

I DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.

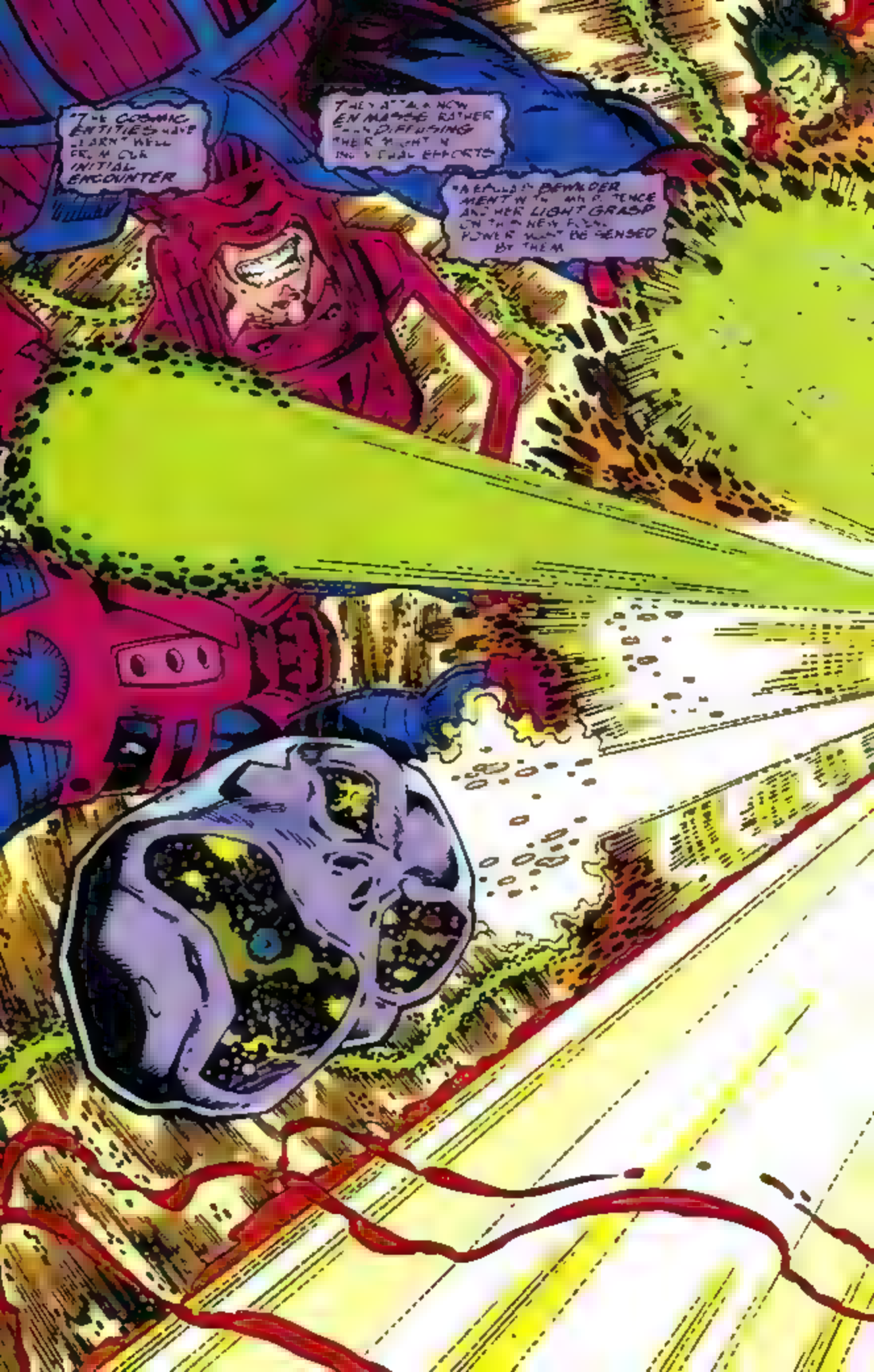
BUT I WILL NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE.

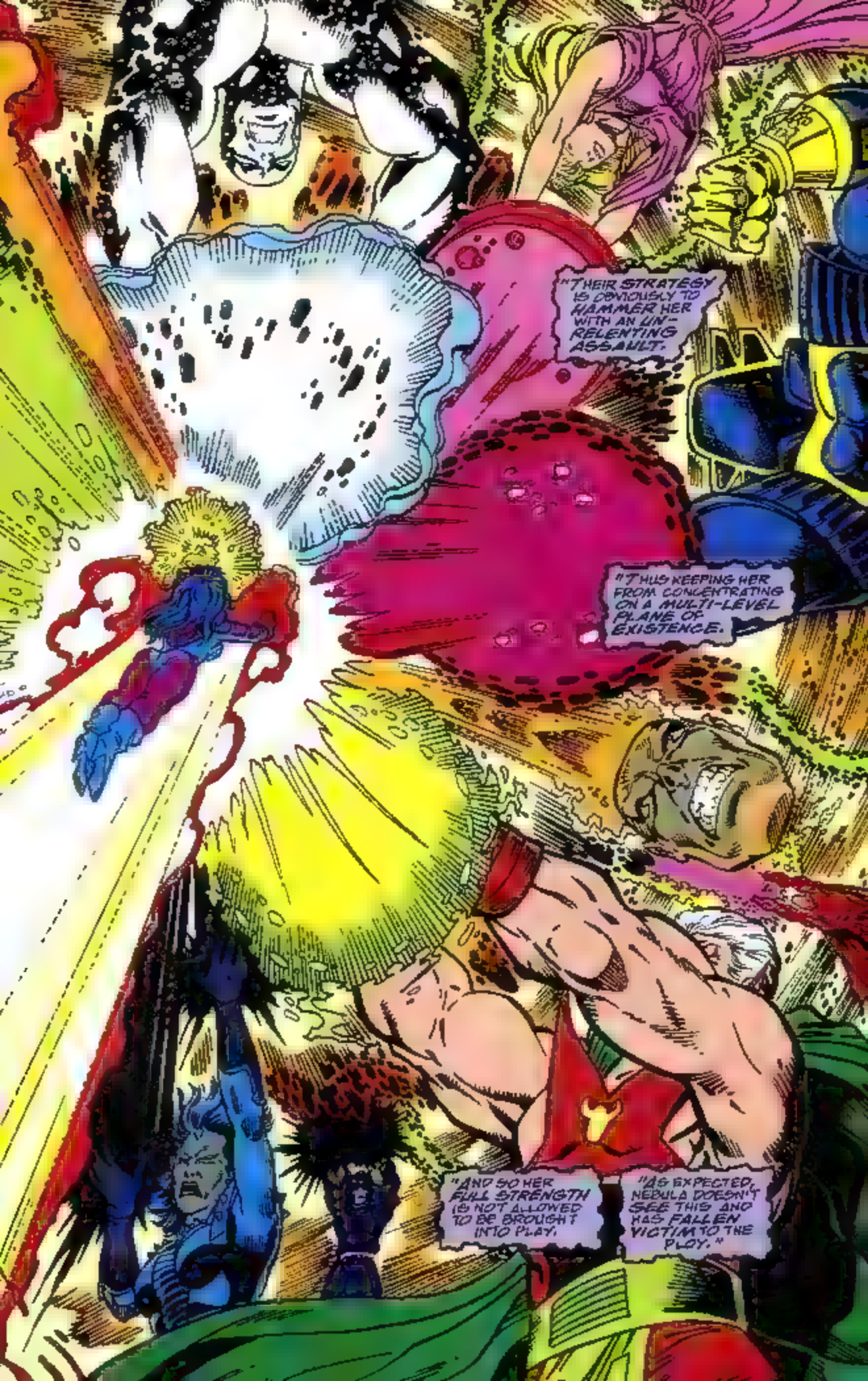
IN WHAT FASHION?

CAN YOU NOT GUESS?

I AM IN NEED OF A SPIRITUAL ANCHOR.

IN ORDER TO FULFILL THAT FUNCTION, WE MUST


"THE COSMIC ENTITIES HAVE LEARNT WELL FROM OUR INITIAL ENCOUNTER
THEY ATTACK NOW EN MASSE RATHER THAN DIFFUSING THEIR MIGHT IN INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS
"A REPULSIVE BEWILDERMENT IN THE MIND'S SENCE AND HER LIGHT GRASP ON THE NEW FORM POWER MUST BE SENSED BY THEM


"THEIR STRATEGY IS OBVIOUSLY TO HAMMER HER WITH AN UN-RELENTING ASSAULT.
"THUS KEEPING HER FROM CONCENTRATING ON A MULTI-LEVEL PLANE OF EXISTENCE.
"AND SO HER FULL STRENGTH IS NOT ALLOWED TO BE BROUGHT INTO PLAY.
"AS EXPECTED, NEBULA DOESN'T SEE THIS AND HAS FALLEN VICTIM TO THE PLOY."

OF COURSE SUCH A TACTIC WOULD HAVE PROVEN FUTILE AGAINST ME.

NOW YOU KNOW ALL THAT IS ADAM WARLOCK.

AND YOU, NORRIN RADD.

THE SCOPE AND PARTICULARS OF MY PLAN ARE NOW CLEAR TO YOU?

YES, BUT ILLUMINATION AND UNDERSTANDING ARE NOT ONE AND THE SAME.

I STILL CANNOT FATHOM YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THIS ENTIRE SITUATION...

—TOWARD ALL LIFE IN GENERAL.

GO DETACHED,

EMOTIONAL NERVES CAUTERIZED, I SUPPOSE

SOMEHOW, I MANAGE

IT IS OF NO IMPORT AT THE MOMENT

ONCE AGAIN, THE UNIVERSE NEEDS SAVING!

IT ALL SOUNDS RATHER MUNDANE WHEN SAID LIKE THAT, DOESN'T IT?

BUT THAT IS WHAT BEINGS LIKE YOU AND I DO. WE DE FEND REALITY.

ESPECIALLY A REALITY IN WHICH A SOUL CAN EXPAND TO FILL A NEED.

WHERE ONE SUCH AS I CAN REACH OUT INTO THE INFINITE,

AND PERHAPS CHANGE THE FACE OF THE COSMOS!

NOW EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON WARLOCK'S TIMING.

IT MUST BE PERFECT OR ALL IS LOST.

WARLOCK!

WHERE ARE YOU?

NOWHERE! EVERYWHERE! AT ONE WITH THE UNIVERSE OF THE SOUL GEM!

THANKS FOR THE LIFT, HANDSOME.

ANY TIME, GAMORA.

WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS AGAIN?

IRON MAN.

NOT THE MOST CORDIAL OF FELLOWS, IS HE?

WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE, CHROME-DOME.

WHAT'S THE STORY, PIP?

LOOKS LIKE THE BOSS'S PLAN IS RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.

YOU'RE BACK AMONG TH' LIVIN' N' BREATHIN'.

IN OTHER WORDS, NO WORD FROM WARLOCK

RIGHT ON THE NOSE.

BUT YOU CAN BET YOUR BOTTOM DOLLAR IT'S ON ITS WAY.

BURP

AND WHEN IT GETS HERE IT'S GOING TO ARRIVE WITH A BANG.

IT'S ALMOST OVER...

FROM THE ONE

I REACH OUT TO THE FIVE!

ADAM...?

A NEW ORDER EXISTS WITHIN THE UNIVERSE!

ALL HAIL THE COMING OF--

OMNIPOTENT NEBULA!

ADAM DON'T GET LOST OUT THERE.

IT'S SO EASY TO DO...

THANOS, BEAR WITNESS TO THE BIRTH OF AN ASTRAL DYNASTY WHICH WILL LAST MANY A MILLENNIUM, PERHAPS FOREVER.

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT?

LET THERE BE...

...DISHARMONY!

ADAM, YOU'VE GOT TO COME BACK!!

ARRGH!

WHAT... IS... THIS...?

RETRIBUTION.

TIME TO CALL IN THE RESERVES.

DEAR NEBULA, YOU LEARN GODHOOD PROVES TO BE A MANTLE NOT EASILY WORN!
NOW OBSERVE HOW SUCH POWER SHOULD BE PROPERLY WIELDED!
STAY THY HAND, TITAN!

QUICKLY, MY FRIENDS!

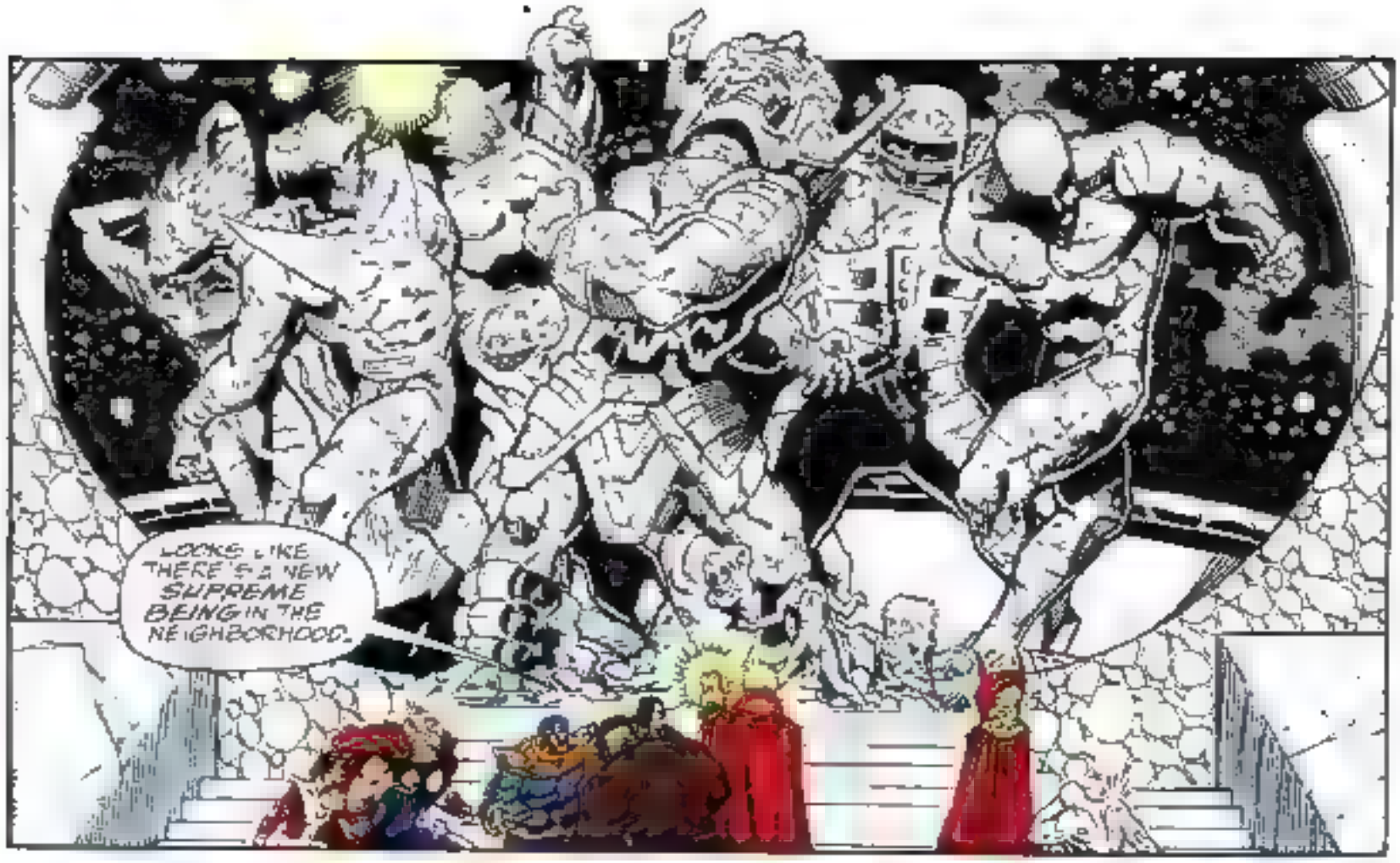
THE GAUNTLET MUST NOT FALL INTO THANOS'S HANDS!

MINE!

HA!

YOU IDIOT! I'M ON YOUR SIDE!!

LET THE CONFLICT END!


LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A NEW SUPREME BEING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

AND HE WILL DEAL WITH ALL MATTERS IN HIS OWN FASHION.

THE GAUNTLET BELONGS TO ME!

YOU CAN'T LOSE THAT WHICH YOU DON'T REALLY DESIRE IT

ARE YOU FOOLS GOING TO LET HIM GRAB THE POWER!

WHAT RIGHT HAS HE TO IT?

THE RIGHT OF POSSESSION.

THAT IS ENOUGH.

THE INFINITE POWER IS NOW ADAM WARLOCK'S.

SEEK NOT TO DISPUTE THAT CLAIM.

I FROM·SE TO USE , I WISELY.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THESE BOZOS?

THANOS IS MINE!

UNHAND ME, YOU DULL-WITTED BRUTES!!

KZIK

I SUGGEST YOU PUNY FOOLS PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN YOURSELVES AND MY PERSON

WHAT?

A THERMAL NUCLEAR DEVICE ON MY PERSON, SET TO DETONATE IN 15 SECONDS.

WHY?

BECAUSE I WOULD PREFER DEATH TO IMPRISONMENT!

PRIDE, MY ONE FATAL FLAW.

NO TIME TO DEACTIVATE THE BOMB!

STAND BACK!

WHAT A WAY TO GO...

EXACTLY WHAT I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED OF THANOS.

I AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF TITAN CLAIM CUSTODY OF NEBULA.

TITAN SHALL JUDGE AND IMPRISON HER.

SO BE IT

WHAT?!

THE OTHERS

GONE!

YET WE REMAIN.
WHY?
BECAUSE EACH OF YOU HAVE GAZED INTO THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART.
BEFORE YOU BECAME POWER INCARNATE.
IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE. MY SOUL IS KNOWN TO YOU.
GO FORTH AND TELL THE MASSES THAT ADAM WARLOCK IS A GOD WHO CAN BE TRUSTED.
I'M NOT SO SURE WE CAN TRUTHFULLY DO THAT.
THAT POWER CORRUPTS IS A TRUISM THAT CANNOT BE IGNORED!
YOU FEAR A COSMIC DESPOT?
SURELY YOU MUST REALIZE THAT EVEN BEFORE THANOS YOU LIVED UNDER SUCH TYRANNY.
BUT IT WAS A BENIGN REIGN RANDOM AND UNFOCUSED.
AND NOW THAT IT IS CALCULATING YOU FIND THIS UNSETTLING?
AFRAID REPLACING YOUR USUAL CHAOS WITH ORDER MIGHT PROVE UNPALATABLE?

LIKE AN ANT CONTEMPLATING

I BEGIN A JOURNEY MAPPED OUT AMIDST THE STARS.

'TIS A PATH I CANNOT STRAY FROM.

NICE PLACE IT'S LED YOU TO SO FAR-

60 DAYS INTO THE FUTURE ON AN UNNAMED PLANET.

IMPOSSIBLE

THAT WORD NO LONGER HOLDS ANY MEANING FOR ME.

SO WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?

PAYING A VISIT.

WHERE THE HECK ARE WE?

ON WHO AND WHY?

WHY?

BECAUSE IT IS WHAT I ALWAYS DO AFTER BECOMING GOD.

ALWAYS?

TIME IS A REPEATING LOOP TO ME NOW.

LOOK!

"THANOS!"

MERELY AN EMPTY SHELL OF WHAT WAS.

A SCARE-CROW?

THAT HOUSE?

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.

THERE IS NO HUMOR IN REALITY.

GREETINGS, THANOS.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN I COULDN'T FOOL YOU.

AS YOU WELL KNOW, THE UNIVERSE NO LONGER HOLDS ANY SECRETS FROM ME.

THE MEMORY IS DIM.

WHY HAVE YOU WAITED SO LONG TO GAIN VENGEANCE?

I SUPPOSE SO.

MUST YOU ALWAYS ASK THAT SAME QUESTION?

CONFUSING, ISN'T IT?

I SEEK NOT REVENGE.

ADVICE IS WHAT I CRAVE.

ENDURE OR SURRENDER THE POWER.

PUNY WORDS OF COMFORT.

AS YOU WELL KNEW THEY WOULD BE.

WHERE DOES THE SUPREME BEING GO FROM HERE?

TO CONFRONTATION, TO RESOLUTION AND THEN ON TO YET ANOTHER CONFRONTATION.

SUCH IS NOW MY LOT.

TIME HAS TAUGHT YOU THE FOLLY OF SUCH AN EXISTENCE, HAS IT NOT?

THREE FAILURES OF SUCH SCOPE ARE ENOUGH EVEN FOR ME.

A QUIET LIFE WILL ALLOW ME TO DIGEST AND INCORPORATE THE LESSONS THE PAST HAS FORCED UPON ME.

THEN I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK, TITAN. FAREWELL.

WHAT??

YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON LEAVING HIM RUNNING FREE, ARE YOU?

YOU NUTS?!

THE DUDE'S A MONSTER! THANOS IS—

MERELY A PIECE, LIKE ALL OTHERS, IN THE MOSAIC THAT IS MY UNIVERSE.

WITHOUT THANOS, THE PICTURE IS INCOMPLETE.

WELL, IF YOU SAY SO—

STILL THINK YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND—

"POWER.

"SUCH AN EPHEMERAL COMMODITY; HARD TO GAIN, EASY TO LOSE.

"AND I ONCE THOUGHT I UNDERSTOOD IT. WHAT VANITY.

"ADAM WARLOCK, A BEING WHO WISHED NOTHING MORE THAN TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS DAYS WITHIN THE PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT OF THE SOUL GEM.
"HE NOW POSSESSES THE INFINITE POWER AND ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT GOES ALONG WITH IT.
"WHILE I, WHOSE ENTIRE LIFE WAS DEDICATED TO THE PURSUIT OF POWER, NOW FIND MYSELF SCRAPING OUT A LIVING FROM THE SOIL.
"IRONY WORTHY OF THE DRAMA.
"YET STRANGELY ENOUGH THOUGH, I ENVY NOT ADAM WARLOCK.
"SOMEHOW I FEEL, THAT IN THE LONG RUN, THANOS OF TITAN CAME OUT AHEAD IN THIS PARTICULAR DEAL."
THE END